

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action of June 26, 2008. Claims 1-48 were pending, of which claims 12, 23, 24, and 28-48 were withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-11, 13-22, and 25-27 were been rejected. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

The applicants thank the Examiner for the interview of July 23, 2008, in which certain § 112 issues with respect to the claims were discussed.

Claim Amendments

Claims 49, 52, 53, 55, 56, 64 and 65 have been amended to remove references to cross-sectional areas and refer instead to widths. As Figure 1a is a side view of an embodiment, widths of the wire along its length are clearly shown. As MPEP 2163 says "Possession may also be shown by a clear depiction of the invention in detailed drawings." Further discussion of the claim amendments may be found in our submission of July 16.

Cited Art

Dubrul et al., US Pub No 2002/0019597, White, WO 01/97697, Uflacker et al., US Patent No 5,243,997, Kurz et al., US Patent No 6,696,504, Bates et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,224,612, Briskin, US Patent No 5,728,062, Graves et al., US Patent No 5,522,819, and Wilk et al., US Patent No 5,417,697 were cited in § 102 and § 103 rejections against the now pending claims. None of this art discloses all the features of the claimed invention. For example, none discloses a catheter attached to a vacuum source that has a wire at least partially disposed therein.

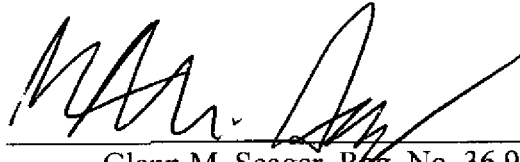
In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a

Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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